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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

1A

**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 5 October 1950

SUBJECT 1. 3rd Volkspolizei Bereitschaft of the Land Brandenburg in Prenzlau  
2. Joint Field Exercises with Soviet Infantry

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. The 3rd VP Bereitschaft of the Land Brandenburg was stationed in Prenzlau (N 54/Q 04) up to [REDACTED]. The unit numbered 1,100 men and was organized into three Kommandos, each consisting of three rifle platoons and a heavy machine gun platoon, and a Sonderkommando conducting training with mortars and in signal communication and intelligence. \*
2. The officers included Oberkommissar Pischel, (fnu), CO of the 3rd VP Bereitschaft, 28 years old, 1.79 meters tall, fair hair; Oberkommissar Walter Soellner, CO of the 1st Kommando, 33 years old, 180 cm tall, fair hair, formerly a tank NCO; Kommissar Dornbusch, (fnu), PK-Leiter of the 1st Kommando, 27 years old, 174 cm tall, fair hair, a fanatic SED member; and one Markert, (fnu), PK-Leiter of the 3rd Kommando.
3. The armament of the Bereitschaft included mortars of 80 and 120 mm caliber, rifles with telescopic sights and rapid-fire designs, 98K type carbines, type 38 and 44 submachine guns and 08 type pistols.
4. The combat training was conducted in accordance with a manual issued by the Hauptverwaltung fuer Ausbildung (Main Administration for Training) (HWA) which combined German and Soviet army training regulations.
5. A joint field exercise of the 3rd VP Bereitschaft with 750 Soviet infantrymen was conducted in the Sternhagen area on 17 April 1950. It was directed by Polizeirat Matschina, (fnu), then Bereitschaftsleiter, and a Soviet liaison officer who wore the uniform of an inspector. Umpires were German Kommissars, Ausbildungsleiter Meinel, (fnu), and officers of the Soviet troops participating in the exercises who looked on from an observation post. \*\*
6. On 14 February 1950 each Kommando of the 3rd VP Bereitschaft organized a special group of 22 men, each group consisting of 3 sections of 7 police each. The first section received training in sabotage on factories, bridges, railroad lines etc., the second section trained in antitank defense and the third section was trained in blocking, barring and

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These groups were referred to as Z-groups and their training was kept secret. Polizeimeister Laugkabel, (fnu), 22 years old, 179 cm tall, fair hair, was Leiter of the Z-group of the 1st Kommando. Kommissar Schwarz, (fnu), 27 years old, 172 cm tall, stocky build, brown hair, and former NCO of the engineer troops of the German Army, was Leiter of the Z-group of the 2d Kommando. Polizeimeister Erich Linka, 24 years old, 176 cm tall, dark hair, stooped, was Leiter of the Z-group of the 3rd Kommando.

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\* **Comment.** The 3rd VP Infantry Bereitschaft was repeatedly reported to be stationed in Prenzlau. For last report see [REDACTED]

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\*\* **Comment.** There have been Soviet field exercises with VP units participating as guard and supply personnel but a joint field exercise of Soviet troops and Volkspolizei is reported for the first time. It is possible that Soviet troops, supporting the VP unit with heavy weapons, took part in this field exercise.

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